

CHRONOLOGY - DRAFT

How many of his works should be included? So far, this only has the works mentioned in Gemma's essay...

1919

Nay Mayer Shapiro is born on June 2 in New York City to Samuel Shapiro and Sarah Ruderman

1929

Begins three years of after-school art classes at the Pratt Institute, New York

1937

Graduates from Abraham Lincoln HS, Brooklyn, NY

1941

Serves four and half years in the U.S. Army, Medical Corps., stationed in Australia and New Guinea

1945

Discharged from the Army

The U.S. War Department acquires some of Shapiro's artwork for the then planned War Museum. One of his paintings is now at the (This happened after he was discharged, therefore should go after the next entry) – Photo of this painting??

1945 (He went to Lake Placid before being discharged. Therefore this should be moved up)

Resides at the Rest & Rehabilitation Center for veterans in Lake Placid, New York, creates portraits, landscapes and theater sets

1946

Joins the Art Students League in New York City for three years under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 for World War II veterans (commonly known as the G.I. Bill).

Continuing Art Education, Brooklyn - ? No date on his CV - I don't know but I would guess in 1935-37 while in High School. He left Brooklyn when he went into the Army and never lived there again.

(He worked for these clients when he lived in France – Therefore 1965-1985 – Move down after his arrival in France)

Begins (delete. He had already worked as a free-lance illustrator in Chicago) works as a freelance illustrator receiving commissions from advertising agencies including BBDO Worldwide; J. Walter Thompson; and Havas. Illustrates for brands such as Ford Motor Company, Trans Worldwide

Airlines (now American Airlines), Omo Detergent, and Sopalin (Delete & replace with Ripolin) (what was the full name back then?); and creates several book covers and illustrations for Reader's Digest France, Le Livre de Poche, A Red Knight Book, and Brockhampton Press, UK (A Red Knight Book was a division of Brockhampton Press. Therefore no need to mention both or delete "and").

1946-1950

Works full-time as men's fashion illustrator, at Otto Freund Studios, NYC

1948 (do you want to add this?)

Marriage with Mirella Bedarida in Tangier, Morocco, August 18

1949

Birth of his daughter, Roberta Gabriella, May 15 (do you want to include this?)

A friend and neighbor, James Clark (should we include his name?), reported to the FBI that Nat Shapiro was a communist and had communist cell meetings in his house. The investigation lasted a couple of years and no proof was found that would incriminate him

1950-51

Works full-time as men's fashion illustrator, at Lefson Lewis Studios, NYC

1951-1954

Moves to Chicago. (Receives commission to illustrate men's fashion from Lefson Lewis Studios and Otto Freund Studios, both in New York City (were these in Chicago or when he was in NY?) – **DELETE**) – Works as advertising illustrator at Sigman Studios. Decides to produce his commercial work under the name Nat Mayer, not to be connected to his artwork

1953

Birth of his son, Marc Jed, January 9

Starts taking fencing lessons and discovers that this is his sports. It fits his temperament, his competitive spirit. He dedicates himself to it very seriously, taking several lessons per week, participating in competitions in several states and in the nationals. Is awarded several gold and silver medals both in the U.S. and France. By 1957 he is a finalist at the U.S. National Foil Championship and ranks 10th.

1954-1961

Free-lance advertising illustrator – Owner/director of advertising art studio, Chicago

(Begins as advertising illustrator for Sigman Studios (what did they specialize in? Where located then?). Sigman did not specialize. Any and all advertising.) **DELETE**

1961

Moves to Paris, France. Expands freelance commercial illustration to companies in France, Belgium and England (through 1985)

1962

Begins year of classes at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière.

Begins Nun series with Dancing Nuns

1963

The King, wood sculpture (it's the only wood sculpture) - Photo??

1964 and 1965

Exhibits at the "Salon des indépendents", Grand Palais, Paris, France

1966-1967

Paints the *Exodus* series, illustrating biblical scenes from The Book of Shemot (Exodus)

The Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague, Shapiro produced five (six) paintings and works on paper and canvas of this fifteenth century site (At different times: 1975, 1985, 1988, 1999 – Move down)

1967 (do you want to add this? See entry 1992)

Works on a free-lance basis with Raymond Dane & Ass. Studio on an exhibit to promote the eventual construction of the Euro Tunnel. This gave him the inspiration, in 1992, to work on a model of a sculpture to be placed at the entrance of the tunnel. (FYI: the call for tender was in 1967, work started in 1973 with some interruptions and was finished in 1993)

1967 (Want to include??)

Flies to Athens, Greece, to testify as a character witness at the trial of his friend Ianis Leloudas, who had been arrested and accused of resistance against the Colonels (Kate the lawyer will have to edit this, as I don't know how to explain it)

1970

Three Legged Chair, Styrofoam/Polyester/Acrylic sculpture

Ranks 5th at the French National Saber Chmpionship

1974

Friends, sculpture, *Legs*, sculpture; *The Wall-Evolution*, sculpture. All in

Styrofoam/Polyester/Acrylic

1975

The French Ministry of Culture acquires *Pandora's Box*, a painting in acrylic on paper toile, which is hanging in the reception hall of the French Embassy, Oslo, Norway (Photo?)

1976

Galerie poisson d'or, Paris, Solo exhibit (reviewed by Nat Biran - delete) – Acrylics on canvas

Group exhibits organized by the Galerie poisson d'or, in several towns in SW France (Auch, Gers area) – Sculptures, acrylics on canvas and on paper (The Wall was exhibited here for the first time)

Enrolls at the French National Sports Institute with the aim of becoming a fencing teacher. Simultaneously trains and teaches under renown Masters at the Cercle Militaire and other clubs in Paris and suburbs.

1979

Obtains the diploma of Prevost (akin to Master), which allows him to teach fencing

Begins Kites series (until 2005)

Begins Checkerboard series (until 2000) – A couples of photos??

Checkerboard series, circa? (delete)

1983 and 1985

Barbara Gilman Gallery, Miami, FL – Group shows - Works on paper, acrylics on canvas

1985

The Wall-Evolution is accepted into the permanent art collection of the Ministry of Culture ([Fonds National d'Art Contemporain](#)—FNAC), [Paris, France](#) (Photo of the Wall??)

Returns to the States and settles in Yonkers, New York

1991

Wetherholt gallery in Washington, D.C. – Group show - Acrylics on canvas, collages

Founds the Upstream Gallery in Dobbs Ferry, the oldest [Westchester, \(delete, not true!\) New York](#), one of the few [fine arts](#) cooperative galleries in Westchester County. He is president from 1995 to 2002.

1987 (move up)

Rents a studio at YoHo Artist Studios, located in the old Carpet Mills Building in Yonkers, NY, which had been converted into several studios, rented out to artists, artisans, small shops, etc. (it is not a studio in the real sense of the word. Twice/year they had open studios, so there was a kind of an art scene for a couple of days)

(Date? Joins YOHO Artist Studios in Yonkers, New York, which becomes the center of an emerging arts scene in southern Westchester with a community of more than 80 artists. Now part of the Carpet Mills Arts District. DELETE)

1990

Dancing Nuns II (The series started in 1962 and went on until 2002)

1992 (do you want to add this? – see entry 1967)

Builds model, in wood and painted aluminum sheeting, for larger piece, proposed to both England and France, to be placed at the entrance of the EuroTunnel. Also proposed to Penn Station, New York and to the Department of Public Works for the New Rochelle, NY train station. – (Add photos of artist rendering and actual piece?)

1993

Lever House gallery, New York, NY – Group show - Acrylics on canvas, dimensional

1996-98

Head fencing coach to the men teams at the City College of the City of New York, New York

1997

Fencing coach to male and female varsity and jr. varsity teams at the Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, NY

Art 54, Montagu Gallery, New York, NY - Group show - Acrylics on canvas and on paper

1998

Creates second biblical series titled *Genesis*, an array of 32 acrylic paintings on canvas to be “placed in juxtaposition above, below and alongside, depicting in black and white (with only a spot of color in each) different scenes” of Genesis (this is Nat’s description. Should it be in quotes?)

1999

Pangloss Gallery in Pisa, Italy – Solo show - Works on paper

Profiled? In Jan. 31, New York Times article “ART: Recognition for Regional Artists”

2000

Circolo Artistico, Bologna, Italy – Solo show - Works on paper

Two paintings, mixed media on paper, *Kites VI* and *Night Side*, acquired by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals for their Learning Center, Arrowood, NY

2003

Nuns with Hula Hoops

2005

Begins *Galaxy series* (The first one was in 1975 and then he continued off and on until 2005)
Should this be moved up?

Nat Shapiro passed away on December 2, in New York, NY

2006

Retrospective at the Upstream Gallery, Dobbs Ferry, NY

2010

“Revisited”, an exhibition of works by Nat Mayer Shapiro, The Susan Berko-Conde Gallery/E. M. Berko Archive in *Chelsea (correct spelling)*, New York – *Works on paper, canvas, sculptures*

2014(delete) **2007** (should be moved up)

More than X (74 assorted painting and drawings, sketches, drawing pads, slides) works acquired into the permanent collection of the Queens Community College Art Gallery. Youtube <https://unofficialqccartgallery.blogspot.com/2017/04/nat-shapiro.html>

2014

QCC Gallery, Queens, NY – Solo show - Works on paper

2015

“Remembrance”, a solo exhibition at Blue Door Gallery, Yonkers, NY – Works on paper, canvas, Styrofoam (At the end of this paper I added a photo of the invitation as I find it quite beautiful. Maybe you don’t want to add it, but I figured that if I don’t send it to you now I’ll never find it again. I came across it by pure chance!)

2016

The Galerie Saphir, Paris and Dinard, France, becomes the exclusive representative of Nat Shapiro’s artwork in France

2017

Title? (No title) Galerie Saphir, Dinard, France - Group show – Works on paper and canvas

Galerie Saphir, Paris – Group show – Works on paper and canvas

(Blue Door Art Center – showcased? Title? (Delete)

2018

Title? “Regarde, regarde les cerfs-volants” (Look, look at the kites) Galerie Saphir, Paris - Solo exhibit – Works on paper, canvas and assemblages

Featured in (Ouest France date and title of article?(delete) the 2018 edition of Bretagne Privilège, in an article about the Saphir Gallery, titled “Passeuse d’art”

Also featured in Cahiers Bernard Lazare, No. 412, December 2018, at the occasion of a solo exhibit in the Club Bernard Lazare

2020

Featured in Cahiers Bernard Lazare, No. 436, (date? Title of article?), December 2020, under the title “L’art à la baguette” (very difficult, almost impossible to translate, also because I’m not sure what Francine meant by it. Maybe “Strong hand on Art”. There could also be a play on words, as “baguette” could be the conductor’s baton. The article starts talking about Nat’s love for Bach’s music. Could it be “Well conducted art”, or “Well-tempered Artwork”, in reference to Bach’s Well-tempered clavier? Maybe we shouldn’t translate the title) in their special issue “Juifs Américains” (American Jews)

What else can we add?

Any awards, recognitions, features or mentions?

Are there other gallery exhibits we need to add?

Other major acquisitions?

The Art Gallery of the Queensborough Community College, Queens, NY, when acquired?

Pfizer Inc. New York, New York, when acquired?

He is represented by Galerie Saphir in Paris and Dinard, France, when did this happen?

Ideas for thumbnail photos:

Banners/icons

Photo from childhood

Commercial art example

Gallery posters (I have three leg chair, fyi)

Picture of Nat and Mirella – retro

Photo of YOHO

Photo of Upstream



The poster is set against a solid blue background. In the top left, the Blue Door Gallery logo (a stylized 'B' and 'D' in a square) is followed by the text 'BLUE DOOR GALLERY' and 'presents' in a script font. The main title 'Remembrance' is in a large, elegant yellow script. Below it, 'CURATED BY ARLE SKLAR-WEINSTEIN' is written in small white capital letters. The artist's name 'NAT SHAPIRO' is in large, bold white capital letters, with 'SELECTED WORKS' in smaller white capital letters underneath. The exhibition dates 'MAY 23 - JUNE 20, 2015' are in bold yellow capital letters. The opening reception details 'OPENING RECEPTION SATURDAY, MAY 23RD 2-5 PM' are in white capital letters. At the bottom, the gallery hours 'NEW Gallery Hours: Thurs, Fri 3-8, Sat. 12-5' and contact information '914.375.5100 www.bluedoorartcenter.org' are in white. On the right side, there is a vertical rectangular artwork by Nat Shapiro, featuring abstract, colorful shapes and figures in yellow, orange, blue, and red, with a signature 'M Shapiro' at the bottom left of the artwork.

BLUE DOOR GALLERY presents

Remembrance
CURATED BY ARLE SKLAR-WEINSTEIN

NAT SHAPIRO
SELECTED WORKS

MAY 23 - JUNE 20, 2015

OPENING RECEPTION
SATURDAY, MAY 23RD 2-5 PM

NEW Gallery Hours: Thurs, Fri 3-8, Sat. 12-5
914.375.5100 www.bluedoorartcenter.org